

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02296 270925Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 H-01 /043 W
-----003153 271036Z /11
R 270756Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3452
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 2296

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE MINISTERS YIELD THEIR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS

REF: DAKAR 2012

1. IN LATEST UNIQUELY SENEGALESE POLITICAL TWIST, 15 MEMBERS OF NEW GOVERNMENT WHO ALSO WERE ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN FEBRUARY 26 ELECTIONS HAVE RESIGNED THEIR PARLIAMENTARY SEATS TO PERMIT LOW-RANKING CANDIDATES ON PARTI SOCIALISTE LEGISLATIVE SLATE TO TAKE THEIR PLACES. SINCE PS HAD WON 82 PERCENT OF NATIONAL VOTE, IT IS ENTITLED TO 82 SEATS, WHICH WOULD HAVE EXCLUDED 18 PARTY LEADERS AT BOTTOM OF NATIONAL LIST FROM ASSEMBLY. RESIGNATION OF 15 MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT FROM LEGISLATURE WILL PERMIT ALL BUT THREE PS CANDIDATES TO ENTER NEW ASSEMBLY, WHILE REPRESENTATION BY OPPOSITION PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS (PDS) WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT 18 SEATS.

2. GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED DAILY IS TESTIFYING TO VIRTUES OF THIS REFORM, CITING NEED TO HAVE "WORKING CABINET" ON ONE HAND AND DESIRE TO "COMPENSATE MILITANTS BY DEMOCRATIZING THE EXERCISE OF POWER" ON THE OTHER. IN MARCH 22 MEETING, PS POLITICAL BUREAU TOOK SATISFACTION IN MIN-
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ISTERS' "VOLUNTARY" DECISION TO YIELD SEATS.

3. DURING DEBATE OVER PAST TWO YEARS OVER LEGAL REFORMS ASSOCIATED WITH OPENING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO REPRESENTATION BY MINORITY PARTIES, PRESIDENT SENGHOR REPORTEDLY REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT ASSEMBLY BE ENLARGED IN SIZE SO OPPOSITION COULD BE ACCOMMODATED

WITHOUT ELIMINATING INCUMBENT PS DEPUTIES. MASS
RESIGNATIONS WHICH HAVE JUST TAKEN PLACE ACCOMPLISH
SAME PURPOSE WITHOUT NECESSITY OF EXPANDING NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD HELP MAKE THE
RECENT MULTIPARTY REFORMS MORE PALATABLE TO PS RANK
AND FILE. HOWEVER, SINCE MINISTERS ARE NOT OBLIGED
TO BE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN SENEGALESE SYSTEM,
COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT REMAINS AS REPORTED REFTEL,
AND DIRECT IMPACT OF THIS CHANGE ON CONDUCT OF
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OF IMPORTANCE TO US SHOULD BE
NEGLIGIBLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780323/aaaaatbn.tel
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